

From: Flash
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 4:07am
Subject: Microsoft Settlements

To: Honorable J. Ashcroft, US Attorney General

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Both as a citizen of this country, and as a knowledgeable scientist who has watched the genuinely criminal behavior of Microsoft that has resulted in not only a worldwide monopoly by this company, but a setting of standards for the world's software that could euphemistically be described as a joke, I am deeply distressed by the settlement conditions set by the office of the US attorney general in its anti-trust suit against Microsoft.

Indeed, this settlement looks in structure not very different from those entered into by the erstwhile Commissioner of Insurance of the State of California, Mr. Quackenbush. It merely creates another opportunity for this marauding company to wreak yet further havoc. It makes no sense whatsoever.

That Microsoft's famous OS WINXX, through several versions over many years, continues to crash spontaneously is only one the bad jokes among almost all users.

Windows is a perfect example of Microsoft's continuing and longstanding practice of theft. Windows is based on the free X-windows system invented and developed at M.I.T. Microsoft has literally stolen what was given freely, made a few simple alterations, and the proprietized it and its source code. For anyone to assert that technically Microsoft is or stays within the law in this practice is vacuous legalism; it certainly is not justice to allow this to continue.

Microsoft has used this pattern of theft with practically every piece of software it sells. The support for their product is another joke: if you can get it at all, it is all true, and totally useless.

This pattern of theft can be seen explicitly regarding Java/Java script, where it was pilfered from Sun. It can even be seen in MS-DOS which was stolen from, and is an unholy watered down version of UNIX, developed at the then Bell Laboratories.

The office of the US attorney general seems unconcerned about the damage that this monopoly does every day. Its power to extort hardware manufacturers and hardware dealers to bundle its simply awful and slipshod programs is legendary, and true. It engages in extortion every day.

In addition to an anti-trust suit, I seriously suggest that a suit under the federal RICO statutes 18 USC 1961, is perfectly appropriate. Anti-trust is the least of what it does.

In the real hope that the office of the US attorney general actually does what it should be doing, instead of making some grandstanding show that comes to nothing or worse, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

William C. Hammel, Ph.D.
A-11 Moose Branch, Sweetwater Apartments #8A
Robbinsville, NC 28771
(828) 479-1547 (voice-TAD-FAX)